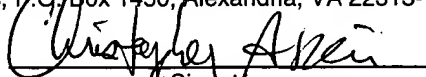


CASE DB17/Div1

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Christopher A. Klein  
Type or print name

  
Signature

January 23, 2004  
Date

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF

Art Unit: 1633

WITTEKIND ET AL.

Examiner: E. Sorbello

APPLICATION NO: 09/965,594

FILED: SEPTEMBER 27, 2001

FOR: MODIFIED FORMS OF HEPATITIS C NS3 PROTEASE FOR  
FACILITATING INHIBITOR SCREENING AND STRUCTURAL  
STUDIES OF PROTEASE-INHIBITOR COMPLEXES

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

This reply is submitted in response to the office action dated October 23, 2003, with a due date of December 23, 2003. A petition for a one-month extension of time accompanies this response, making the response timely submitted.

Enclosed with this reply is a substitute Sequence Listing containing the sequences specified in the Office Action.

Entry of the following amendments, which are believed to place the application in condition for allowance, is respectfully requested.